

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a multi-dimensional data structure in order to access data associated with a plurality of data sources, said plurality of data sources having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

defining at least one dimension~~[[,]]~~ and a dimension value associated with the at least one dimension, ~~an attribute and an attribute value~~ for said multi-dimensional data structure;

creating a plurality of combinations of dimension values,

wherein ~~[[each]]~~ a combination defines a data item, and

wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and each of the plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items;

mapping data items in the first set of data items in said multi-dimensional data structure to corresponding data items in the second set of data items in each data source; ~~[[and]]~~

determining a location of ~~[[the]]~~ a gap, ~~the gap~~ comprising a difference between

~~[[said]]~~ the first set of data items and ~~[[a]]~~ the second set of data items;

bridging the gap by at least one of the following:

obtaining, from one of the data sources, a further data item not originally obtainable in the second set of data items;

modifying the multi-dimensional data structure to be further defined by the
second set of data items; and
converting a source data structure in at least one of the data sources into
another data structure.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of data sources.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising defining an attribute and an attribute value associated with the attribute for said multi-dimensional data structure, wherein [[said]] the attribute is assigned to a single dimension.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~step of creating the~~ combinations includes ~~the step of~~ linking two or more dimensions for said combination created.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said ~~step of mapping~~ includes ~~the step of mapping~~ [[a]] the combination ~~for a dimension value~~ to a data source structure for one of the data sources.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ creating a mapping file for historic data conversion.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ generating a report, wherein said report is a combination report, a hierarchy report, or a mapping report.
10. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine, said instructions for generating a new multi-dimensional chart of accounts that is used to access data associated with a plurality of source charts of accounts, wherein said plurality of source charts of accounts has a different number of dimensions than said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts, the program storage device executing the method comprising steps of:
- defining at least one dimension and[[,]] a dimension value associated with the at least one dimension, ~~an attribute and an attribute value~~ for said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts;
 - creating a plurality of combinations of dimension values, wherein each of the combinations ~~combination~~ defines a data item,
 - [[and]] wherein said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts data-structure is defined by a first set of data items₁ and

wherein each of said plurality of source charts of accounts ~~data sources~~ is defined by a second set of data items;
mapping data items in the first set of data items in said new multidimensional chart of accounts to corresponding data items in the second set of data items in each source chart of accounts; and
determining a location of a gap comprising a difference between said first set of data items and a second set of data items;
bridging the gap by at least one of the following:
obtaining, from one of the source charts of accounts, a further data item
not originally obtainable in the second set of data items;
modifying the new multi-dimensional chart of accounts to be further
defined by the second set of data items; and
converting a source data structure in at least one of the source charts of
accounts into another data structure.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 10 [[11]], wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of source charts of accounts.

13. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises defining an attribute and an attribute value associated with

the attribute for said multi-dimensional chart of accounts, wherein the attribute is assigned to a single dimension.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 10 ~~[[14]]~~, wherein said dimension is at least one of a dimension for a product, an industry classification and a maturity.

16. (Original) The program storage device of claim 15, wherein said dimension value associated with said product dimension is one of corporate loans, mortgages, home credits and personal loans.

17. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said ~~step~~ of method further comprises creating the combinations includes linking two or more dimensions for ~~[[each]]~~ a created combination ~~created~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein said ~~step~~ of method further comprises mapping includes mapping ~~[[each]]~~ a combination for a dimension value to said plurality of source charts of accounts.

19. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the method further comprising the step of comprises creating a mapping file for historic data conversion.

20. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the method further comprising the step of comprises generating a report, wherein said report is a combination report, a hierarchy report, or a mapping report.

21. (Currently Amended) A tool for generating a multi-dimensional data structure for integrating data from a plurality of data sources, said plurality of data sources having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said tool comprising:

a relational database;

a processor;

a data structure generator, wherein said data structure generator defines at least one dimension~~[[,]]~~ and a dimension value associated with the at least one dimension,~~an attribute and an attribute value~~;

a combination module for creating and retrieving a plurality of combinations of dimension values,

wherein a combination defines a data item_i and

wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and said plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items;

a mapping module for mapping data items in the first set of data items in the multi-dimensional data structure to corresponding data items in the second set of data items in said plurality of data sources; [[and]]
a gap detector for detecting a gap comprising a difference between [[said]] the first set of data items and [[said]] the second set of data items; and
a gap resolver for facilitating bridging of the gap by at least one of the following:
obtaining, from one of the data sources, a further data item not originally
obtainable in the second set of data items;
modifying the multi-dimensional data structure to be further defined by the
second set of data items; and
converting a source data structure in at least one of the data sources into
another data structure.

22. (Original) The tool of claim 21, wherein said tool is in communication with said plurality of data sources via an electronic network.

23. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 21, wherein said gaps are bridged at said plurality of data sources.

24. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 21, wherein said combination module creates [[a]] the combination by linking two or more dimensions.

25. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 21, further comprising a mapping file module for creating a mapping file used for historic data conversion.
26. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 21 ~~[[1]]~~, further comprising a report generator for generating a report, wherein said report is a combination report, a hierarchy report, or a mapping report.
27. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~, further comprising documenting how the gap was bridged.
28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.
29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.
30. (Currently Amended) A program storage device according to claim 10 ~~[[11]]~~, wherein the method further comprising comprises documenting how the gap was bridged.
31. (Currently Amended) A program storage device according to claim 10 ~~[[11]]~~, wherein the multidimensional chart of accounts data-structure ~~data-structure~~ comprises a centralized database.

32. (Previously Presented) A program storage device according to claim 31, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A tool according to claim 21 [[33]], wherein the gap detector and resolver document how gaps are bridged.

35. (Previously Presented) A tool according to claim 21, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.

36. (Previously Presented) A tool according to claim 35, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the another data structure comprises the multi-dimensional data structure.

41. (New) A program storage device according to claim 10, wherein the another data structure comprises the multi-dimensional chart of accounts.

42. (New) A tool according to claim 21, wherein the another data structure comprises the multi-dimensional data structure.